

To: Diamond, Jane[Diamond.Jane@epa.gov]
Cc: Kemmerer, John[KEMMERER.JOHN@EPA.GOV]
From: Vendlinski, Tim
Sent: Wed 3/11/2015 11:36:13 PM
Subject: RE: BDCP briefing for March 23 Stan Meiburg visit (briefing paper options)
breifing paper G.M. Bay Delta overview 02 07 14.docx
briefing paper G.M. CA map & water facts TJV 02 06 14.pdf

Hi Jane:

Per our chat, I did the last formal 1-pager in FEB 2014 (attached) along with a map with numbers that Jared requested.

More recently in SEPT 2014, I prepared these Hot Topic summaries.

Please let me know what you'd like me to do.

From: Vendlinski, Tim
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 8:39 AM
To: Johnson, AudreyL
Cc: R9_WTR_MANAGERS
Subject: REVISED Hot Topic summaries for Upcoming ECOS Fall Meeting on September 15 - 17 in Santa Fe, NM

Audrey, et al.

I revised the BDCP summary based on input from Kathy G.

Thanks, Tim

Drought Response Strategy for California: The drought emergency of 2014 has galvanized new interest in water conservation, irrigation efficiency, wastewater recycling, groundwater replenishment, and potable re-use. EPA is working with all levels of government, tribes, and NGOs to expand and scale-up improved water management approaches, sustainable infrastructure, and water saving technologies. Region 9 is identifying tools and incentives that can be translated into direct actions to address the immediate crisis while building long-term resiliency to future droughts and climate change. These include the expenditure of loans and grants derived from the State Revolving Funds (capitalized by EPA and administered by the State), EPA's WaterSense program – a private sector partnership to improve water-use efficiency in

homes and gardens, the Federal Green Challenge to save water and energy at federal facilities, and the Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Strategy to assist communities region-wide with planning for an uncertain future. Under the SRF alone, the State of California is offering \$800 million in reduced interest loans to advance water recycling projects over the next three years.

San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta: EPA is contemplating two major actions within the 2014-2015 timeframe:

(1) Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP): On 08/26/14, EPA sent detailed comments to NMFS regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project (released in December 2013). The Agency withheld a formal rating on the DEIS in response to a decision by the lead federal agencies (NMFS, USFWS, and USBR) to prepare a supplemental DEIS to address many substantive, outstanding issues raised by EPA, other agencies, and NGOs. EPA's primary concern is that the proposed project would permanently degrade water quality in the Delta, and further erode protections for *designated uses* such as fish and shellfish propagation. The California Department of Water Resources is the lead agency for the State and has been the stakeholder most resistant to problem-solving dialogue. While the proposed project is framed as a "conservation plan", it is more importantly an engineering plan entailing the construction and operation of two ~35 mile long tunnels that would divert water directly from the Sacramento River in the north for conveyance under the Delta to existing federal and State pumping plants in the South Delta. From there, the water will be sent, as it has been for decades, to the San Joaquin Valley for farming, and to other points southward for municipal and industrial consumption. A recent [study](#) by the University of California concluded that the State Water Board and its predecessors have allocated 5x the available supply of freshwater; so the State has created a drought of 'perpetual perception' in the minds of stakeholders because more has been promised than what nature can sustainably deliver.

(2) Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay Delta WQCP): EPA is working with the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on a comprehensive revision to the Bay Delta WQCP; the first comprehensive update since 1995. Phase 1 of the process involves setting flow objectives on the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta; Phase 2 of the process involves setting flow objectives for the interior Delta downstream to Carquinez Strait. In March 2013, EPA raised concerns that the proposed flow objective for Phase 1 (35% of the historical "unimpaired flow" on the lower San Joaquin River) would not protect *designated uses*, including reproduction and survival of Chinook salmon. In response to comments from EPA and others, the State Water Board is revising the Phase 1 document, but its release has been significantly delayed as the same staff from the State Water Board has been working intensively to respond to the drought emergency.

From: Diamond, Jane
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Vendlinski, Tim; Kemmerer, John
Subject: BDCP briefing for March 23 Stan Meiburg visit

I have a call in to Kathleen to talk about preparing for this briefing for Stan Meiburg. We can talk further tomorrow at Tim's update.

I also asked if she needs anything from us re further prep. for the Administrator for possible Friday visit by Governor Brown re the change in direction.

Jane Diamond

Water Director, EPA Region 9

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From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:46 AM
To: Nitsch, Chad
Cc: Johnston, Khanna; Strauss, Alexis; McIlwain, Serena; Diamond, Jane; Johnson, Kathleen; Stollman, Scott
Subject: draft agenda for Stan Meiburg visit

Sunday March 22, 2015

Late afternoon, early evening arrival to SFO. BART transport to hotel.

Monday March 23, 2015

8:30 p.m. ARA Serena McIlwain (50 minutes)

9:30 a.m. Tour R9 workplace renovation with RA Jared Blumenfeld and ARA Serena McIlwain

10:00 a.m. OA Videoconference with RA, DRA Alexis Strauss, Public Affairs Director Kelly Zito

11:00 a.m. Meet with R9 Senior Management Team

12:00 p.m. Brownbag Lunch with new employees: 64 hired in FY14 and FY15 to date

1:00 p.m. San Francisco Bay-Delta: Jane Diamond, Water Director and Kathleen Johnson, Enforcement Director

2:00 p.m. All managers forum (format similar to Region 8 chat) (50 minutes)

3:00 p.m. R9's Communities of Focus: staff briefing (50 minutes)

4:00 p.m. Close out conversations with RA, DRA, ARA

5:00 p.m. Adjourn (as it will be 8 pm-equivalent for Stan, I can accompany him to dinner nearby if he wishes).

Tuesday March 24, 2015

Morning departure from hotel to SFO using BART

Chad, if this works for you and Stan, we'll get to work on some supplementary materials. We are also hosting an Administrator visit that week.

Alexis

Alexis Strauss

Deputy Regional Administrator

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